

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4654

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 9346

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, UNCTAD, CH, MX, US

SUBJ: CHINESE REACTIONS TO U.S. POSITION ON CHARTER OF
ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (CERDS)

1. (NOTE: FOLLOWING WAS DRAFTED BY AMBASSADOR JOVA BEFORE
HIS DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON.)

2. AT RABASA'S FAREWELL LUNCH AT FOREIGN SECRETARIAT FOR
BELGIAN AMBASSADOR, THE MATTER OF THE CHARTER CAME UP AT
POST-LUNCHEON COFFEE CONVERSATION OF RABASA WITH GROUP OF
AMBASSADORS. RABASA GAVE A STATUS REPORT OF CURRENT NEGOTIA-
TIONS, STATING HIS GOVERNMENT'S DISAPPOINTMENT THAT MORE
FORTHCOMING U.S. ATTITUDE, WHICH SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED
AT MAGDALENA-TUBAS, HAD IN FACT NOT MATERIALIZED. HE GAVE
A BALANCED REPORT OF U.S. OBJECTIONS TO ART. 2 AND THEN
SAID THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTED MEXICAN DELEGATES TO WORK
STRENUOUSLY UP TO THE MINUTE OF THE ACTUAL VOTING HOPING TO
WORK OUT A TEXT TO WHICH U.S. COULD AGREE WITHOUT AT SAME
TIME "SACRIFICING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE THIRD WORLD."

3. IN GENERAL CONVERSATIONAL EXCHANGE WHICH FOLLOWED, I
WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR CHINESE AMBASSADOR (WHO, INCIDENTALLY,
HAD BEEN VERY CORDIAL TO ME DURING LUNCH) SAY IN BOOMING
VOICE: "UNITED STATES UNQUESTIONABLY COMMITTED NOW TO VOTE
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FOR "CHALTER"; IT CAN NOT GO BACK ON PRESIDENT FORD'S WORDS

EXPRESSED PUBLICLY AT TUBAC." I POINTED OUT THAT PRESIDENT FORD, AND THE USG, FAVORED THE PRINCIPLE OF THE CHARTER, BUT THAT VITAL ARTICLE 2 REQUIRED FURTHER MODIFICATION TO OBTAIN OUR SUPPORT. I ALSO OBSERVED THAT SPANISH INTERPRETATION OF PRESIDENT'S REMARKS MIGHT HAVE MADE OUR SUPPORT SEEM MORE UNQUALIFIED THAN IT ACTUALLY WAS. CHINESE RETORTED: "I HEARD PRESIDENT FORD ON TELEVISION MYSELF -- BOTH ENGLISH AND SPANISH -- AND IN MY OPINION U.S. IS NOW COMMITTED, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF ITS FRIENDSHIP WITH MEXICO." RABASA CLOSED DISCUSSION BY POINTING OUT THAT PURPOSE OF NEGOTIATIONS AT UNGA WAS PRECISELY TO FIND A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY FORMULA. BRANDIN

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